

LETTER  
OF THE  
SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR  
AND THE  
POSTMASTER GENERAL,  
TRANSMITTING

*The report of the commission appointed to select a proper site for a building for a post office and for the accommodation of the United States courts in the city of New York.*

JANUARY 7, 1866.—Read, referred to the Committee on Post Offices and Post Roads, and ordered to be printed.

WASHINGTON, D. C., January 8, 1867.

SIR: Congress, by joint resolution entitled "Joint resolution relative to the courts and post office of New York city," approved May 16, 1866, appointed "a commission to select a proper site for a building for a post office and for the accommodation of the United States courts in the city of New York."

The commission has selected a site and reported to the undersigned the price at which it can be purchased.

We approve the report, and we have the honor to communicate it to Congress.

The facts and considerations submitted in the report are, in our opinion, conclusive as to the expediency of purchasing, on the terms proposed, the site selected. We respectfully recommend an additional appropriation of one million five hundred thousand dollars for the erection of a building for the purpose mentioned in the joint resolution.

An urgent necessity exists for early action, and we are of opinion that economy and policy require that the United States should be the proprietor of the building in the city of New York appropriated to such important public uses.

We have the honor to be, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servants,

O. H. BROWNING,

*Secretary of the Interior.*

ST. JOHN B. L. SKINNER,

*Acting Postmaster General.*

Hon. L. F. S. FOSTER,

*President pro tempore of the United States Senate.*

*To the honorable Alexander W. Randall, Postmaster General, and the honorable O. H. Browning, Secretary of the Interior :*

The undersigned having been, by resolution of Congress approved May 16, 1866, appointed a commission to select a proper site for a building for a post office and for the accommodation of the United States courts in the city of New York, report :

A full and free interchange of views was had at several of their meetings, and it was agreed that the first thing to be determined was the size of a building necessary to meet the requirements of the business of the United States courts, and those of the postal business of the city of New York, during the next thirty years.

Upon investigation it was ascertained that the average amount of outgoing and incoming mails had increased, in less than twelve years, from ten tons per day to ninety and one hundred tons per day; that the business in every department of the city post office had more than doubled during the last four years; that the present post office building was totally unfitted for and inadequate to the present wants of the postal business, and that a building fitted to accommodate it and the business of the United States courts would require a space of land equal to from twenty-five to thirty city lots. It was also apparent that a location should be procured in which streets were wider than those upon which the present post office is situated, the latter being too narrow to permit large mail wagons to be turned in them without using the sidewalks on one of the sides of those streets. Advertisements, therefore, were inserted daily for two weeks in four papers of the largest circulation, inviting proposals for the sale of a space of land equal to twenty-five or thirty city lots, centrally located in the city of New York. Only one definite response was received, viz : from Smith Clift, esq., relative to the sale of St. John's Park. This property, located near the Hudson river, was considered to be so far removed from the central part of the city as to be unfitted for the purposes proposed.

The legislature of the State of New York having in the year 1860, and again in the year 1861, authorized the corporation of the city of New York to sell to the United States a portion of the City Hall Park, on which to erect a post office, both boards of the common council appointed a joint committee to meet a committee of this commission and a committee of the commissioners of the sinking fund (without whose consent a sale of real property by the city of New York could not be made) to take into consideration the terms upon which a sufficient space of the City Hall Park, for the purpose designed, could be sold to the United States. Their meetings resulted in the passage, by the commissioners of the sinking fund, of a resolution that the city of New York should sell to the United States a space in the lower part of the City Hall Park, bounded and described as follows :

"All that piece or parcel of land in the city of New York, being the southerly end of the City Hall Park in said city, bounded and containing as follows: Commencing on the easterly line of Broadway, at a point three hundred feet northerly from the westerly termination of the curved line which bounds the southern extremity of the said City Hall Park, and running thence southerly along the said easterly line of Broadway three hundred feet to the said westerly termination of the said curved line; thence following the said curved line one hundred and fifty feet to its easterly termination on the westerly line of Park Row; thence along the said westerly line of Park Row three hundred feet; thence in a straight line across the said City Hall Park, three hundred and twenty feet and two inches, to the point of beginning, containing, in area, sixty-five thousand two hundred and fifty-nine square feet, or the sum of \$500,000,' with a condition that the property should revert to the city whenever the United States ceased

to use it for the purpose for which it was sold. The joint committee of the common council unanimously recommended to their several boards the adoption of this resolution. A resolution in accordance therewith has been adopted by both boards of common council, and the same has been duly approved by the mayor; (a copy of the resolution is herewith annexed.)

Your commission deem it proper to state that the municipal authorities of the city of New York have, in adopting the resolution above referred to, (by which so large a portion of the City Hall Park will be at a mere nominal price, if accepted by the United States, conveyed, for the purposes aforesaid, to the United States,) exhibited great liberality, and shown a commendable disposition to aid the government in this important and necessary improvement.

Your commission also refer to a communication from Samuel G. Courtney, esq., United States district attorney, hereto annexed, in which he states the number of rooms that will be required for the use of the United States courts, and the offices necessary to transact the large and increasing judicial business of the district. It is the opinion of this commission that the accommodations named in the communication of the district attorney could not be procured in any location in the city of New York, central and suitable, at a rental of less than \$75,000 per annum.

It is not, perhaps improper, for this commission to refer to some of the advantages that would be secured by the United States in the purchase of this property. The price named is a mere nominal sum. The space specified is equal to about twenty-six city lots. It is well located for the purpose and business of the United States courts, being in the immediate vicinity of the city hall, new city hall, the custom-house, and other public buildings of the United States. The government is now paying \$22,500 rent per annum for the premises at present occupied by the United States courts and the offices connected therewith, and which are entirely unfit and inadequate for the purposes for which they are used; and this purchase, for the use of the courts alone, would be a good investment.

It is also the focal point of all the city travel. Nearly all the railroads in and running into the city of New York terminate at this point, or in its immediate vicinity. No other site, suitable or adequate for purposes aforesaid, having been presented or offered to the undersigned, this commission therefore recommend that the United States accept the offer of the corporation of the city of New York, to sell to it the portion of the City Hall Park referred to in the resolution hereto annexed, for the purpose of erecting thereon a city post office, and rooms for the courts of the United States, and for the necessary offices connected therewith; and in conclusion we would suggest that the Postmaster General and the Secretary of the Interior urge upon Congress at its present session such action as will insure the purchase of the site above mentioned, and also the erection at once of the buildings so long and so greatly needed.

JOHN T. HOFFMAN,

*Mayor of New York.*

SAMUEL G. COURTNEY,

*United States Att'y, Southern District N. Y.*

JAMES KELLY, *Postmaster.*

JONATHAN STURGES,

*Acting President of the Chamber of Commerce.*

JACKSON S. SCHULTZ,

*96 Cliff street.*

MOSES TAYLOR.

CHAS. H. RUSSEL.

*Resolution referred to in foregoing report.*

*Resolved*, That the mayor, aldermen, and commonalty of the city of New York do hereby authorize and direct a conveyance to the United States government of a piece of ground described in a resolution adopted by the commissioners of the sinking fund on the 25th day of June, 1866, upon the terms described in said resolution, which resolution reads as follows :

*Resolved*, That the commissioners of the sinking fund advise that the lower portion of the City Hall Park, as designated on a certain map which constitutes a portion of the records of the proceedings of said commissioners, be sold and conveyed to the United States government as a site or location for a post office and court-house, and to be used by the said United States government for said purposes exclusively, for the sum of five hundred thousand dollars, the conveyance to contain a provision that when the same shall cease to be used for the purposes specified or for some one of them, the title shall revert to and be reinvested in the mayor, aldermen, and commonalty of the city of New York.

*Copy of communication from S. G. Courtney, esq., United States district attorney.*

The judicial branch of the public service will require apartments as follows :

- Rooms for the United States district attorney.
- Rooms for the United States marshal.
- Rooms for the United States circuit court.
- Rooms for the United States district court.
- Rooms for the United States circuit court clerk's office.
- Rooms for the United States district court clerk's office.
- Rooms for the United States grand jury.
- Private chambers for judges United States district court.
- Private chambers for judges United States circuit court.
- Two rooms for referees of circuit and district courts.
- One room for storage for United States marshal.

## THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY.

This officer should be awarded at least six separate apartments. One large commodious apartment for the district attorney ; one for his chief assistant ; one for the two remaining assistants ; one for the clerks in charge of the registers ; one for the copyist and messengers ; and one specially given to the records of the office. These apartments should all connect with each other, so that the district attorney can conveniently at all times have his entire corps of subordinates within his control and supervision, and yet these apartments should be so separated (by partition and doorway) that each official may discharge his duties without interruption. If in addition to these rooms the district attorney may have an ante-room connected with his own, for his private interviews, which in the course of business is often necessary, it would make the arrangements complete. An apartment, as suggested, for the records of the office, which have become voluminous, is indispensable. It is desirable that these rooms should be on the same floor, or contiguous to the court-rooms.

United States marshal's office, jury-rooms, and storage for articles under seizure of the marshal.

The rooms required for the accommodation of the United States marshal for the southern district of New York, his assistants, &c., &c.

One large room, say about 20 by 40, for the general business of the United



States marshal's department, fitted up similar to banking institutions, to be occupied by the deputy and clerks.

One room, smaller, for the use of the United States marshal as a private office.

One room for ten (10) constables attached to the marshal's department, large enough to be fitted up with a desk for each officer and connected with or near the general office.

One room for grand juries; one room for petit juries—both should be near the court-rooms; one room to keep prisoners and witnesses during examinations before United States commissioners and court trials; one large room for storage of goods, &c.—this room should be on the cellar floor. In addition to the above rooms, the usual accommodations for the janitor of the building.

#### UNITED STATES CIRCUIT COURT.

Court-room, clerk's offices and judges' chambers. The clerk of the circuit court will require for the proper transaction of the business of his office, three rooms of good size for the accommodation of the clerk, deputy clerk, and under clerks in the office, and two rooms to be fitted up for records.

There should also be room provided for the circuit court and judges' chambers—would prefer to have them as near the ground floor as possible.

#### UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT.

Court-room, clerk's offices and judges' chambers. The clerk of the United States district court for the southern district will need in the new building, for the proper transaction of the business of his office: One room for the clerk; one room for the deputy clerk; three rooms for the under clerks and the books and papers in constant use; one very large room for the records and papers in suits that have been closed; one large room for the United States commissioners to hold their examinations in, as they are officers of court. These rooms should connect with each other, and should be on same floor as the court-room.

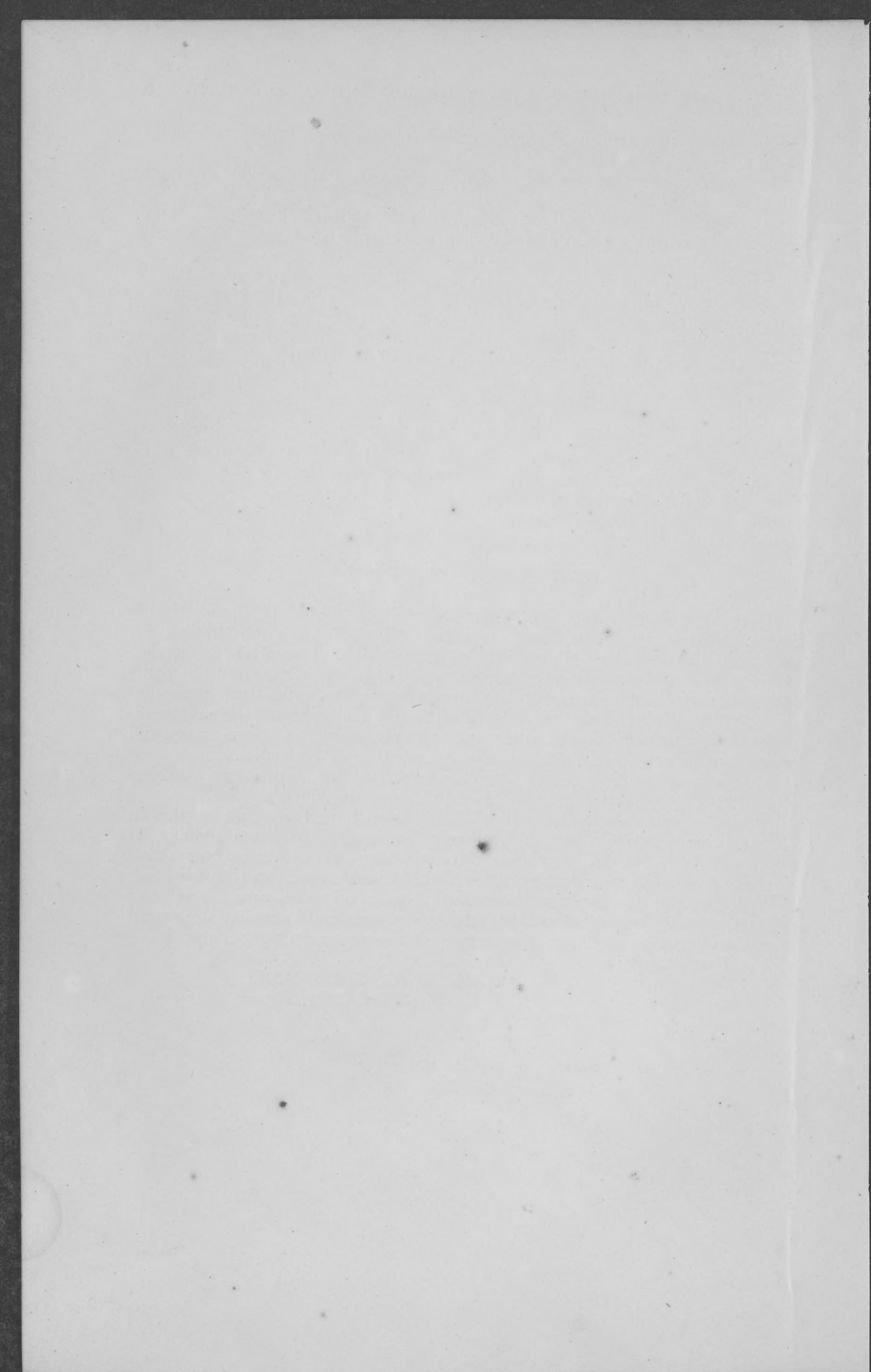
I desire particularly to press upon the committee the importance of expedition in the provision of accommodations as above described.

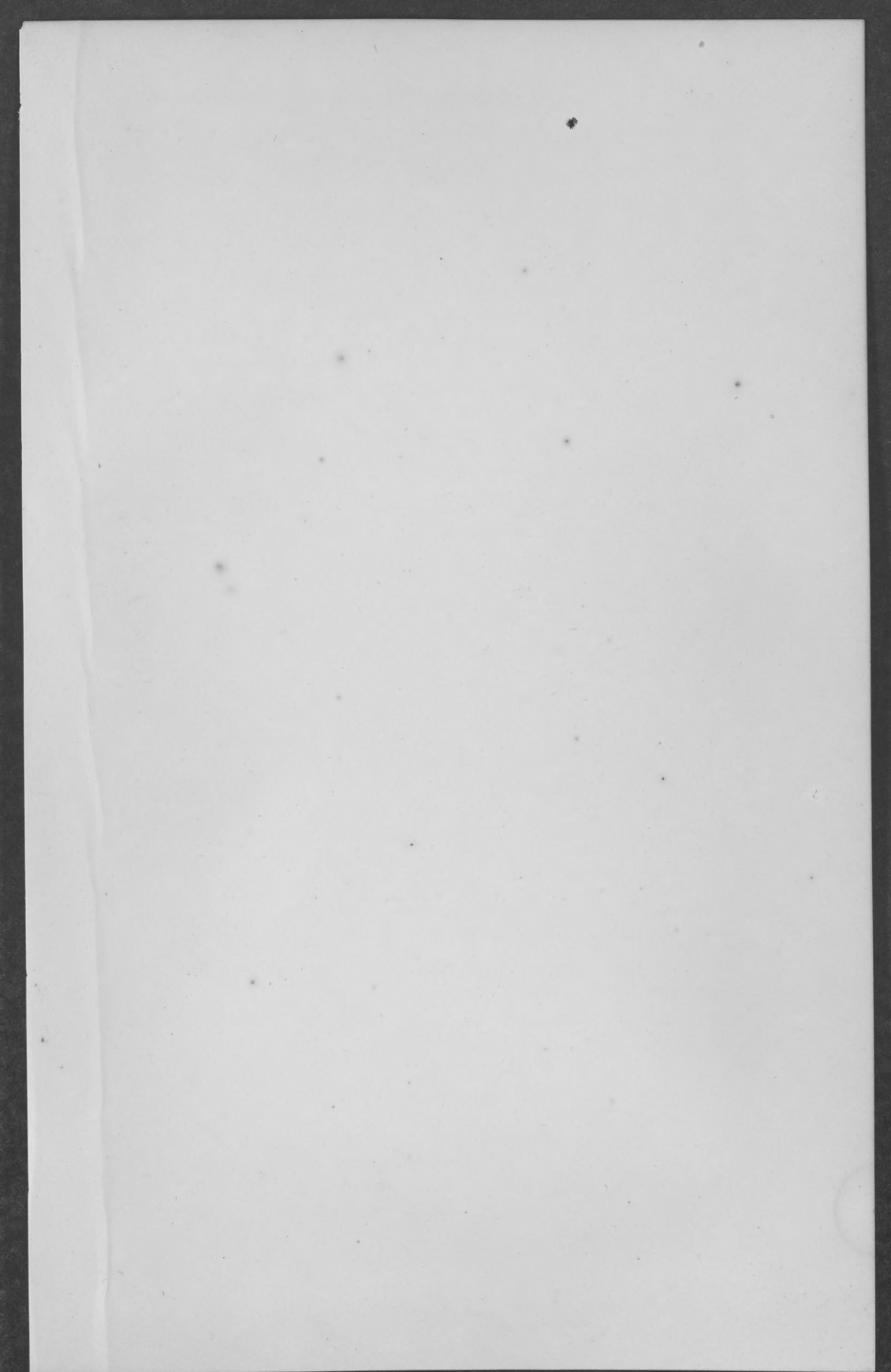
The building now occupied by the judicial branch of the public service, at No. 41 Chambers street, has lately changed ownership, as I am credibly informed, and on the 1st May next I presume new quarters for the transaction of the public business pertaining to the United States courts will be required. Where these quarters can now be obtained, I am at a loss to say. It is very clear they must be had at whatever cost somewhere, and I mention the matter that the committee may know the urgency of the matters in their charge.

Respectfully,

SAMUEL G. COURTNEY,

*United States District Attorney.*





MESSAGE

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

In compliance with a resolution of the Senate of the United States, passed on the 12th day of March, 1891, and in pursuance of the act of Congress, approved on the 20th day of March, 1891, relating to the collection of statistics of the foreign-born population of the United States, I have the honor to transmit herewith a report of the Secretary of State, in which is contained a statement of the progress made in the collection of the statistics of the foreign-born population of the United States, and a statement of the results of the collection of the statistics of the foreign-born population of the United States.

Respectfully submitted,

WASHINGTON, January 12, 1892.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE.  
Washington, January 12, 1892.

Sir: The Secretary of State to whom has been referred the resolution of the Senate of the United States, passed on the 12th day of March, 1891, and in pursuance of the act of Congress, approved on the 20th day of March, 1891, relating to the collection of statistics of the foreign-born population of the United States, has the honor to transmit a copy of report embodying the information made in collecting the statistics, and also the weights, measures, and values of the foreign-born population of the United States, as far as is known, next has the honor to transmit a copy of report embodying the information made in collecting the statistics, and also the weights, measures, and values of the foreign-born population of the United States, as far as is known, next has the honor to transmit a copy of report embodying the information made in collecting the statistics, and also the weights, measures, and values of the foreign-born population of the United States, as far as is known.

Respectfully submitted,  
WILLIAM H. BURNETT  
The President of the United States.